

FOCUS ON

Fort Lauderdale

February/
March
2005

A
community
newsletter
published
by the
City
of
Fort
Lauderdale

World Class City



City News



Also In This Issue...

Activities and Programs To Enjoy; Plus Time-Savers You Can Use Online;
News and Issues To Keep You In-The-Know and more!



Mayor's Message

Jim Naugle

City Commission

Vice Mayor
Dean J. Trantalis, District II

Commissioner
Christine Teel, District I

Commissioner
Carlton B. Moore, District III

Commissioner
Cindi Hutchinson, District IV

A Year Past: A New Vision For The Future

2004 was a year of significant transition for our City. Re-examining the way government does business has been at the top of our legislative agenda.

Changes in city management have provided us with a great opportunity to examine every aspect of City operations with the goal of improving productivity, streamlining expenses and developing a stronger, more effective organization.

The old way of doing business must make way for a new vision for the City based on fiscal responsibility, accountability, and quality delivery of services. A vision that rewards excellence, not mediocrity. And, above all, a vision that places the people of Fort Lauderdale first.

In keeping with that vision, the City has: adopted a major restructuring of departments saving \$250,000, restructured sanitation services saving \$900,000 per year, froze employee salaries in 2004 and 2005 and implemented a merit pay system for top managers in which they only get raises for excellent performance. The City is currently working on a strict new ethics code that will prohibit employees from accepting gifts from anyone who does business with the City and will prohibit conflicts of interest. We are also working to break the log jam in our

Building Department and to ensure a more proactive and visible Police Department.

As the future unfolds, the City will continue to work in partnership with its most important asset - our citizens - to develop the strategies necessary to ensure a safe and secure community, provide quality programs and services, enhance quality of life, protect the environment, respect our past, promote smart growth for the future and, most fundamentally correct the fiscal problems of the past few years.

By remaining focused on our mission, I am confident that we can address the challenges that lie before us, and preserve and enhance the unique characteristics that make Fort Lauderdale such a special City.

I look forward to the months and years ahead with optimism and anticipation as we work to create a better future for the people of Fort Lauderdale.

I invite you to become involved with our City government. Join one of our 32 advisory boards or committees and learn all that we have to offer as a world-class City. The City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov has all of the information that you need to get you started.



Inside This Issue ...

On the Cover ... Fort Lauderdale is a 24-hour City with plenty for locals and visitors alike. It takes top billing for its navigable waterways, elegant beaches, phenomenal parks, strong downtown business environment, attractive Riverwalk, and beautiful neighborhoods. On the cover are a few snapshots of the sites and sounds that make Fort Lauderdale home to hundreds of thousands and a key destination to millions of tourists each year. Check out this issue for all that Fort Lauderdale has to offer.

Page 4 ... Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation offers more than 900 acres of parks grounds and facilities with every possible amenity and recreational offering. Check out the array of upcoming events and programs coming up.

Page 6 ... There's ground-breaking news developing and its changing the way the City does business. A new Building Services Center is in the works with a customer-friendly approach to helping residents, business owners and developers obtain permits, meet building standards and conduct plan reviews.

Page 7 ... Keeping streets, neighborhoods, schools and businesses safe is the City's number one priority, and the Police Department has restructured to better serve the City's growing needs.

Page 12 ... Get to know the City of Fort Lauderdale website for some timesaving tips to paying bills, getting services and learning about events and activities.

Editor 's Note...

Since 1996, I have served as Editor of *Focus On Fort Lauderdale*. On that note, I bid farewell after nine years of writing, editing and publishing articles on City developments, community events and neighborhood news. I am thankful for the opportunity to create a residential newsletter that I hope has met your information needs. Most importantly, I am privileged to have served such a great community. Know that in my absence, *Focus On Fort Lauderdale* will continue to be published. Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to collaborate on a redesign of the newsletter. The redesign is intended to reflect the exciting changes taking place in our City. Look for the unveiling in the spring.

Lourdes Rodriguez -Barrera

NEAT Addresses Neighborhood Issues Code Concerns

District III residents are getting a little extra TLC with a NEAT program. Commissioner Carlton Moore introduced the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team - a program designed as part of a coordinated effort to improve the quality of life in the Dorsey Riverbend, Durrs and Home Beautiful neighborhoods. Various strategies have been launched targeting code violations and enhancing safety and security in the key areas. In December, City officials kicked off the NEAT program at Provident Park with a Holiday Spruce Up. The daylong event offered residents enhanced bulk trash services, demonstrations by law enforcement personnel, free fruit and shade tree giveaway as well as free paint giveaway and activities for children that included educational workshops on recycling. A follow-up event took place on January 29 to announce additional beautification efforts. To learn more about the NEAT program, please call the Public Information Department at (954) 828-4746.



Learn How Energy Conservation Can Help You

Get charged with information on energy conservation and renewable energy.

The City of Fort Lauderdale Utility Advisory Committee will host the first Energy Roundtable on March 22. Residents, business owners, developers, architects are invited to learn about the latest technologies and processes being used and developed to conserve energy. Experts from various fields will be onhand addressing a wide range of topics including the latest building products, design strategies, and renewable energy technologies.

The Energy Roundtable will take place at the Broward County Main Library Auditorium, located at 100 S. Andrews Ave. The workshop is free to the public. Refreshments and registration will begin at 6 p.m. followed by presentations at 7 p.m.

The Energy Roundtable is hosted by the Utility Advisory Committee of the City of Fort Lauderdale, a committee established by the City Commission in February 2002 to address issues related to Florida Power & Light affecting the City of Fort Lauderdale, businesses and residents. For more information, please call (954) 828-4756.

Looking For Great Properties To Recognize

The City of Fort Lauderdale's 27th Annual Community Appearance Awards applications are waiting for you.

The awards recognize homeowners, neighborhood groups, architects, developers and builders for projects that enhance the City's visual image and economic vitality. Applicants may submit new construction or renovation projects in a variety of categories including Institutional, Commercial, Parks and Recreation, Multifamily Residence, Single Family Residence, Waterfront



Properties, Special Projects, Landscape/Garden and Retail. Properties

must be located within the City of Fort Lauderdale's corporate limits and must be visible from a public thoroughfare.

Complete eligibility and submission requirements are outlined in the award application. Deadline to submit is February 11, 2005. Winning entries will be announced at the Community Appearance Awards Presentation on May 12 at the Museum of Art in Fort Lauderdale.

For more information or for applications, please call (954) 828-4741.

The benefits of recreation are endless.

Get More Out Of Life At Parks & Recreation

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department offers plenty of programs and activities to keep you busy. Here are just a few to note on your calendars. For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at **(954) 828-7275**.



Learn, Live-It-Up and Laugh At The Beach Community Center... From cooking to computer classes, aerobics to language lessons, there's plenty cooking at the Beach Community Center. This great facility is located at 3351 N.E. 33rd Ave offering a full range of programs and activities for all ages throughout the year. Below are some new additions to the program list:

Sweet Treats To Taste: This cooking class for adults takes place on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. through February 23. Show off your culinary skills with a new dessert at your dinner party or serve something new to your family. Learn to make new desserts and create specialty drinks to go with each treat.

Kid Cooking Creations: This cooking class is for children ages 6 to 12 years of age. If your kids enjoy helping in the kitchen, then this is the class for them. They'll make fun and tasty treats week after week while meeting new friends. Classes run Thursdays from 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m., through February 24.

Crafty Kids: Let your children ages 6 to 12 make a mess away from your home while discovering their creative side. Classes run Tuesday from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., through February 22.

Mardi Gras Luncheon: Come and join us on March 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and have a ball. Our first Mardi Gras Luncheon will include a catered lunch, great entertainment, and bingo with fabulous prizes. Paid reservations of \$10 per person are required by March 4. Reserve your seats early. Space is limited.

Want to know more about the classes at the Beach Community Center? **Call 954-828-4610** for a complete listing.

360 Degrees of Fitness... Whether you are just starting or you are a regular fitness buff, there's a class for you at Warfield Park, 1000 N Andrews Ave. Classes run Mondays and Wednesdays 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost of \$5 per class. Learn how to make exercise a healthy, fun habit with Aerobic Kickboxing, Step Aerobics, Floor Aerobics, resistance training, Pilates, abdominal training, Yoga and more. For additional information, call **954-759-6896**. All participants are asked to bring a towel and water in a closed/portable container to each class.



Tennis Serves Up Life Skills For Kids

The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department is serving up an exciting opportunity for kids ages 6 to 14.

TennisPlus Junior Program, a unique tennis clinic, offers empowerment to youth by promoting positive values, healthy habits and education through the game of tennis. After a successful first season last year, enrollment is expected to fill up quickly for the new season beginning Monday, February 14.

The camp will take place at Riverside Park, located at 555 S.W. 11th Ave. The program runs Mondays and Wednesdays in three, four-week sessions. Topics emphasize leadership development, good sportsmanship, teamwork, physical fitness, proper



nutrition, etiquette, organizing for success in tennis and study habits, identifying personal goals and more. Cost of the session is \$40 for residents, \$46 for non-residents and \$10 for Youth Enrichment Scholarship (Y.E.S.) recipients. To register or for additional information on TennisPlus or the Y.E.S. program call **954-468-1553**.

Explore Snyder Park

Explore the natural beauty of Snyder Park with the Nature Exploration Series. Don't miss exciting adventures each month at Fort Lauderdale's most scenic park. Upcoming topics include:

Camping and Hiking: Learn proper tent set-up, site selection, fire building, proper hiking gear and more on Saturday, February 12 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Fishing: Learn the sport of identifying the best bait and tackle, choosing a fishing line and more on Saturday, March 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Snyder Park is located at 3299 S.W. 4 Ave. For more information, call **954-828-4585**. Entrance fees to Snyder Park are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6 to 12 and \$2 for groups of four or more. Children under 5 are free.

Volunteers Needed: CVC To Make A Clean Sweep of City Properties

Show your City spirit by joining the Citizen's Volunteer Corps.

The City of Fort Lauderdale's Citizens Volunteer Corps (CVC) is conducting two exciting projects.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 19. Volunteers are needed to help rake, mulch, paint and get Floyd Hull Stadium ready for opening day of baseball season. The clean-up will take place from 8 a.m. to noon. Floyd Hull Stadium is located at 2800 S.W. 8th Ave. Parking will be available on site.

On Saturday, March 12, volunteers are needed to help spruce up Sistrunk Boulevard. The project is part of the Neighborhood Enhancement Action Team (NEAT) program. Between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m., volunteers will help make a

clean sweep of vacant lots in the Dorsey Riverbend, Durrs and Home Beautiful neighborhoods. Volunteers are asked to meet at the Von D. Mizell Center, located at 1409 N.W. 6th Street. Parking will be available on site. City residents both young and old are invited to participate in the project. The CVC project includes an array of activities such as landscaping, planting, raking, weeding and other types of outdoor maintenance work. Volunteers do not need any special skills and all supplies will be provided. Participants are encouraged to wear work clothes and bring sunscreen.

By participating in these project, officially recognized City neighborhoods are eligible to earn 500 points which may be used toward fulfilling the match require-

ment needed for a Neighborhood Capital Improvement Program (NCIP) grant. In addition, students who participate can earn hours toward fulfilling their school's community service requirement.

Established by the Fort Lauderdale City Commission, the CVC is comprised of volunteers who serve on an "as needed" basis to address non-emergency, citywide projects to enhance our community. The City's Vice Mayor serves as chair of the CVC Steering Committee. Since its inception, more than 800 Fort Lauderdale residents have participated in projects.

For more information or to volunteer, please call Maxine Singh at 954-828-5028 or e-mail to cmovol@fortlauderdale.gov.



Lunch By Noon Tunes

Lunch just got livelier in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department presents Noon Tunes at Stranahan Park on Wednesdays, February 16 through March 9.

Bring your lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to Stranahan Park, located at the corner of Andrews Avenue and Broward Boulevard, adjacent to the Broward County Main Library, and enjoy a variety of tunes.

Featured entertainers include:

Feb. 16 - Jimmy Stowe and the Stowaways (Classic Rock)

Feb. 23 - Charles Kellawan (Caribbeans Steel Band)

March 2 - Sundown (Country music)

March 9 - Rod McDonald (Irish music)

For more information, call the Noon Tunes hotline at **954-828-5363**.

Street Renaming Honors African-American Pioneer

The City of Fort Lauderdale recently hosted a Street Dedication Ceremony to honor the accomplishments of James A. Dallas, Sr. a businessman, educator, visionary and community leader.

The ceremony marked the official renaming of 2nd Street from N.E. 3rd Avenue to N.W. 12th Avenue as "James A. Dallas, Sr. Street" in honor of one of Fort Lauderdale's African-American pioneers. Following his tour of duty in the



Mayor Naugle poses with members of the Dallas family and community honoring the late James A. Dallas, Sr.

Army as First Sergeant in World War II, James A. Dallas Sr. began teaching English and History at Dorsey High School in Dade County and, later, at Broward County's Blanche Ely High

School and Sunrise Middle School. He retired in 1982 after a long and distinguished career as an educator. As an entrepreneur and businessman, Dallas operated "Odell's Lounge and Grill" and

the "Big Savoy," two of Fort Lauderdale's landmark African-American nightclubs in the '40s and '50s. Dallas booked many legendary performers of the era including Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, and Ray Charles. In addition to his entrepreneurial endeavors, Dallas also rooted himself in the community through his work in numerous civic and social organizations. He was a founding member of the Fort Lauderdale Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi and the Young Men's Progressive Association, and served as Exalted Ruler of the Elks Club. He was an advocate of equality and civil rights through his work with the NAACP.



Don't miss South Florida's most beautiful mile - Riverwalk. There's a great selection of shopping, restaurants and entertainment lined up along the brick-paved promenade.



Log on to www.browardcenter.org for more information.

Nothing beats a day of discovery. Explore more than 200 fascinating interactive exhibits at the Museum of Discovery and

Fort Lauderdale: A World Class City

It is no mystery why more than 150,000 residents choose Fort Lauderdale as their home, thousands of snowbirds flock to spend winter here, and tourists make the City a must-see destination. The reason is as clear as our blue wave beaches. Fort Lauderdale is a 24-hour City with an endless array of sites and sounds. Here's a glance of what you can find.

Just minutes from the beach is the Riverwalk Arts and Entertainment District in downtown Fort Lauderdale, home to cultural attractions, shops, parks and restaurants. Enjoy brunch to the tunes of South Florida's leading jazz musicians on the first Sunday of each month. The SunTrust Sunday Jazz Brunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. is one of the many free entertainment events in Fort Lauderdale that you won't want to miss. Log on to www.goriverwalk.com.

Spend a day or evening at the theatre at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts where you can enjoy drama, action, jazz and comedy with a spectacular selection of concerts, plays and musicals. There is something for everyone, children too. You can even take a free group tour of the theatre.

Science with its Blockbuster 3D IMAX Theater! This cutting edge attraction is not your typical museum. See sharks and the largest living Atlantic coral reef in captivity, hang out with bats, be charmed by a 12-foot snake, plus pet alligators, turtles, and iguanas. Discover our place in aerospace at Runways to Rockets, the new space exhibit, and take a simulated trip to the Moon or Mars. Don't miss an IMAX film adventure on the five-story-high screen at Blockbuster IMAX Theater. Bring the kids for a play date. Take a peak and log on to www.mods.org.

Old Fort Lauderdale Village and Museum is the place where Fort Lauderdale's history comes to life. Located where Henry Flagler's East Coast Railway crosses the New River on Riverwalk, the village includes three historic buildings, a replica of the first schoolhouse in Broward County and a modern research and collections facility. Take a guided tour of Fort Lauderdale's past and see where it all began. Log on to www.oldfortlauderdale.org for additional information.

The Museum of Art is located at One East Las Olas Blvd. As the first stop of the Princess Diana exhibit, the museum will mesmerize you. Take advantage of an ambitious education endeavor with art classes in a variety of media and subjects for all ages and skill levels. Don't miss monthly and weekly special events ranging from jazz concerts to yoga lessons. Check out the permanent collection of American and European modern and contemporary art, Picasso ceramics, contemporary Cuban art, CoBrA paintings and sculpture, and works by American impressionist William Glackens. Log on to www.moafi.org for more information.

Looking for more to do? Log on to www.fortlauderdale.gov, click on Leisure and surf for many more attractions, events and spots to discover.

Building A Stronger Foundation

The City of Fort Lauderdale's new Building Department is in the process of creating a stronger foundation aimed at improving customer service and increasing the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the services they provide.

Customers can expect quicker permit processing and a brand new Building Services Center designed to provide a more professional and comfortable environment. Stay tuned for a grand opening.

"As the City continues to develop and grow, our department must grow with it to ensure we are able to meet the needs of our customers and our residents," said **Valerie Bohlander**, City of Fort Lauderdale Building Department Director. "We will continue to move forward with researching and implementing innovative ways to improve customer satisfaction."

To reach its goals, the Building Department is doing the following:

- Hiring six plan reviewers, five inspectors and three support clerks,
- Designating "Chiefs" for each discipline (i.e. building, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, etc.) to speed up turnaround

time and ensure uninterrupted plan review functions,

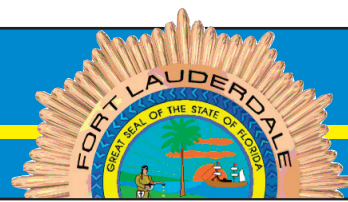
- Assigning an Inspector II and an upper level clerk to greet and assist each customer to ensure that plans are directly routed to those disciplines that require review,
- Assigning one plan reviewer solely dedicated to assisting homeowners, answering questions and offering guidance to those with an interest in "doing it themselves,"
- Hiring a computer specialist to upgrade computer software and develop a more user-friendly phone system, and
- Scan instead of microfilm records, which will improve print quality and make record retrieval quicker and easier.

The relocation of the Building Services Center (formerly known as the One Stop Shop) will provide customers with a various benefits including:

- Ample parking,
- An open floor plan to improve workflow and the ability to maintain and retrieve files,
- A special area for customers to prepare and assemble plans for submittal/resubmittal.

Inside FLPD

Fort Lauderdale Police Department



Police Roll Out New Crackdown on Crime

Fort Lauderdale Police are restructuring the department to enhance police presence and visibility throughout the City. The philosophy of the department remains to act aggressively and proactively before crime issues take root. The restructuring will deploy additional police officers on patrol and ensure that high traffic areas such as the beach have increased patrols.

Chief Bruce Roberts said, "The return to a full complement of officers will provide the visibility and resources needed to effectively address the issue of crime in a city this size. Our emphasis will remain fixed on bringing criminals to justice and clamping down on quality of life crimes, which if left unaddressed, lead to more serious criminal behavior by the perpetrators."

Police are actively meeting with neighborhood and business groups about issues of concern. Officers are also meeting and

working with school administrators as part of the Safe Schools Program to develop critical incident response plans, provide additional support and increase communications and access to young people.

A Citywide Safe Streets Task Force involving all elements of the department and other agency support is targeting street robberies and proliferation of guns.

An Enhanced Beach Policing Plan is providing additional police personnel and services to residents, businesses and visitors on Fort Lauderdale beach. Their focus includes code enforcement, homeless intervention, graffiti control and community outreach. The unit will also support patrol operations during special events on the beach. As new officers are added to the force, the beach area will see an increase in the number of patrol officers assigned to the area.

The Entertainment District Policing Plan has also been revised and enhanced for the downtown entertainment district with Captains placed in charge of event operations.

Confronting Homelessness

The Fort Lauderdale Police Department is garnering headlines and accolades for its Homeless Outreach and Crisis Intervention Program.

The effort recognizes that homelessness has multiple causes and that every individual deserves a safe place to stay. Working closely with shelters and advocacy groups, the program officers encourage homeless persons to seek shelter and introduce them to needed services. Initiated in 1999, the Fort Lauderdale model has been adopted by other law enforcement agencies including the

Clearwater, Tampa and Los Angeles County Police Departments and praised by national advocacy groups including the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C. A recent article in The Tampa Tribune lauded Fort Lauderdale's program as an award-winning model (that) serves as an example for Tampa and other cities facing a worsening homeless problem.

"We are law enforcement officers first and foremost. But we recognize that any person who feels ostracized and apart from society is at greater risk of turning to crime. The key is in building and

maintaining partnerships between the homeless and social service and law enforcement agencies," said Officer Scott Russell, Coordinator for the Homeless Outreach Program and Crisis Intervention Team. "Our partners, shelter organizations, the mental health community, social service programs and feeding programs all make it possible for us to provide the homeless with an opportunity to recapture and reclaim their lives."

In January, homeless advocates and county and City volunteers conducted a census of the homeless population in Broward County.

Get Involved in the Fight Against Crime

A variety of effective tools are being used nationwide that range from patrolling bicycle units to community outreach partnerships that mentor at-risk youth. In all cases, successful crime prevention strategies are dependent upon the cooperation between local law enforcement and the citizens it serves. The City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department invites citizens to get involved and mark their calendars for the following upcoming activities.

Free Workshops Scheduled... Landlord Tenant Training takes place on February 16 and March 16. Sessions are held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Police Department, 1300 W. Broward Blvd. Topics include identifying and eradicating illegal activity on rental proper-

ty; the Federal Fair Housing Act; Section 8 Housing; applicant screening; rental agreements, available City resources and more. To register, call (954) 828-6428.

Join Citizens Crime Alert... Citizens Crime Alert, Inc. is a resource for citizens to gain information about public safety. The group is made up of community residents who meet the first Monday of each month with a City of Fort Lauderdale Police Department official to discuss various crime prevention strategies. Meetings are held the first Monday of each month on the 8th floor of City Hall, located at 100 N. Andrews Ave. Topics vary. For information, please call (954) 763-7863.



Homeowners: Be Mindful Of Your Security Alarms

False home alarms keep police officers away from other crime prevention efforts. Homeowners are responsible for false alarms. Be familiar with your security system and how it operates.

Recently the City Commission approved amendments to the Alarm Ordinance. Now, after the first false alarm that police or fire-rescue respond to, homeowners may be fined from \$50 to \$500 for each additional false alarm response within a 12-month period. Fines are progressive depending on the number of false alarms from each address. Below are some additional highlights that home alarm users should note:

- * Each alarm system user is required to register their alarm system on an annual basis in January. Forms are available online at www.fortlauderdale.gov/alarms.

- * A one-time registration fee of \$50 is required for all new alarm users who have not properly registered as of January 16, 2004. There is no additional fee to renew your registration.

If you have any questions regarding the Alarm Ordinance, Alarm Registration, or the Alarm Billing process, please feel free to call the Alarm Unit at **954-828-5476** or email AlarmUnit@fortlauderdale.gov.

New Fire Boat Makes Splash

The City's Fire-Rescue personnel now have a new means of responding to water-related emergencies. The new 28-foot McKee Craft Fire-Rescue boat can race to emergencies at 55 miles per hour and pump 1,000 gallons of water per minute.

With numerous homes and boats along 165 nautical miles of navigable waterways in Greater Fort Lauderdale, the need for water-related emergency rescue is vital. The new vessel will make rescue efforts more efficient and effective.

"When life and property are at risk of destruction, time is of the essence. Our previous fire boat served the community well for more than 15 years," said Fire Chief Otis J. Latin, Sr. "However, this new vessel will ensure that we have the ability to respond immediately to emergencies on waterfront land and on the waterways."

The new boat was partially funded by a matching grant provided by the Florida Inland Navigation District. The City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department has the only firefighting boat in South Florida, docked in the water and ready to respond.



Photo Courtesy of the Sun-Sentinel

Homestead Exemption Made Easy

Get a break on your taxes by filing for a homestead exemption.

The City of Fort Lauderdale, in partnership with the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office, will conduct special taxpayer sign-up sessions for the 2005 Homestead and Senior Exemptions at City Hall, the Beach Community Center and various homeowners and civic association meetings. The Homestead Express mobile office will be available in January and February to all homeowners associations

who wish to have them present at their monthly association meeting. Deputy appraisers will also assist taxpayers at the following locations:

Beach Community Center,
3351 N.E. 33rd St.
Feb. 18; 10 a.m. to noon

Fort Lauderdale City Hall
100 N. Andrews Ave., 8th Floor
Cafeteria
Feb. 25; 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Become CERT Ready

Are you prepared if a disaster strikes? Will you be able to help your family and neighbors until emergency responders arrive? If you become CERTified in the City of Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program you will learn how to provide basic emergency assistance.

The next CERT class, free to Fort Lauderdale residents, begins Wednesday, March 2nd. The class meets from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the Fort Lauderdale Fire-Rescue Training Bureau, located at 2000 NE 16th Street.

To register for the course or for more information, please call **954-828-6800** or email GBurrini@fortlauderdale.gov. Space is limited.

Fire Safety Bond Progress Report

On Nov. 2nd, voters approved a \$40 million Fire Safety Bond to rebuild existing fire stations and to construct a new station in the southeast section of the City.

The City Commission voted to create a Blue Ribbon Committee to oversee bond expenditures and provide recommendations and guidance in the bid process. The committee met for the first time in January. Fire-Rescue Chief Otis J. Latin, Sr. welcomed the passage of the referendum.

"This rebuilding effort is long overdue. The bond will deliver Fire-Rescue facilities from deterioration and neglect and secure our ability to adequately serve the citizens and businesses of our growing City," said the Chief. "I look forward to working with the Committee to ensure tax dollars are spent wisely and that the work is completed in a responsible and expeditious manner."

Home Sweet Home

New, affordable homes are popping up in the Sweeting Estates area of Northwest Fort Lauderdale as the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) continues to revitalize economically depressed areas in and around downtown Fort Lauderdale.

Recently, the City partnered with New Visions Community Development Corporation (CDC) and Bank of America and hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony. The celebration marked the completion of three new homes in Sweeting Estates that are part of a residential development that will bring 18 single-family homes and 12 townhomes to the neighborhood.

Prices range from \$124,000 for a home with 1,500 square feet, three bedrooms and two and a half baths to \$195,000 for a home with 2,200 square feet, four bedrooms and two and a half baths.

Bank of America, in partnership with New Visions CDC, is developing the project and Harper and Sons, a local builder, is constructing the homes. The CRA provided the partnership with \$1.5 million for infrastructure improvements and \$435,000 in development assistance.

Waste Management Expands Solid Waste Collection Service In Fort Lauderdale

Since 1997, Waste Management, Inc. has been responsible for garbage and yard waste pickup in some parts of the City. Recently, the City Commission approved expanding the contracted areas with the City. It is anticipated the new contract will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars each year.

Residents will now see Waste Management trucks rather than City Sanitation vehicles picking up garbage carts. There will be no changes to billing or service. The dates of collection will not change. Only the time of day that collections are made may vary. Waste Management has a long-standing, corporate service policy that requires employees to resolve any customer concerns within 24 hours.

Fort Lauderdale will continue to maintain the 24-hour Customer Service Center at **954-828-8000** with any questions or suggestions concerning trash pickup.

There will be no increase in the rate charged to consumers. In fact, the rate for collection has not increased in several years.

We are committed to satisfying our sanitation customers expectations. We pride ourselves on being a customer-service oriented company. We are pleased to be expanding our work within the City and look forward to providing residents with a smooth transition in their neighborhoods, said Butch Carter of Waste Management.

Curb Your Pups and Butts

Dog owners remember to be considerate when out and about with your pet. It is unlawful for a person to leave animal waste on public or private property or to fail to promptly remove waste. Help keep our streets, sidewalks and yards clean. Pick-up after your pet!

And smokers...

Make no butts about it, cigarettes are a health hazard and butts on our beaches and City streets are an unsightly litter problem. Disposing of them improperly is a violation of the law. Cigarettes are not biodegradable. Discarded butts are an eyesore on our streets, walkways and beaches. If you must smoke, take the time to look for an ash tray. Properly extinguish the cigarette and toss it in the trash.



Schools Earn \$\$\$ By Recycling

Fort Lauderdale schools can earn dollars for recycling efforts by participating in the annual Magazine/Catalogue Recycling Program.

The program is open to all public and private elementary, middle and high schools. Participating schools will receive money based on the tonnage of old magazines and catalogues collected.

The City kicked off the recycling program in January. It will run through Friday, April 1. Schools must invest \$130 in a collection dumpster at the beginning

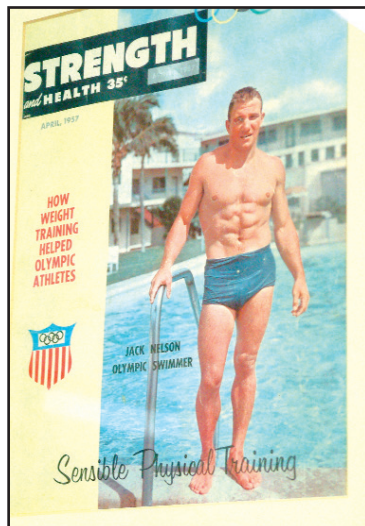
of the program. The dumpster is picked-up at the end of the 12-week program. Businesses and community groups are urged to help schools by sponsoring dumpsters.

This year, homeowner associations can earn Recycling Incentive Grant dollars (RIG) by finding a business partner and working on behalf of neighborhood schools. The top three schools will also receive a bonus check from the City. Residents, multi-family dwellings, businesses and community groups are

encouraged to donate magazines and catalogues to participating schools. For a complete list of participating schools or to register for the program, please contact Casey Eckels, Recycling Coordinator, at **(954) 828-5577**.



Aquatic Legend Retires In All-American Style



The photo above shows a young Jack Nelson who at the time was an Olympic swimmer featured in the April 1957 issue of **Strength and Health** magazine. The article emphasized the importance of weight training to swimmers.

Fort Lauderdale Swim Team Coach Jack Nelson is a legendary fixture in the City of Fort Lauderdale. His career as an athlete and coach spans more than five decades.

"My motto is 'Access To Success Is Thru the Mind' and it is imprinted on all of our T-shirts and repeated throughout my coaching philosophy," said Nelson.

A fan of the book *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*, Coach Nelson has dedicated his life to helping others perfect their aquatic skills.

"Coach Nelson is not only Mr. All-American -- always donning red, white and blue. He is Mr. Fort Lauderdale, always a fitting ambassador for the City," said Stu Marvin, City of Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex Manager. "He has brought a lot of recognition to Fort Lauderdale as a world-class city. Everything he wears says Fort Lauderdale on it!"

Growing up as a Georgia teen, I loved football and basketball, said Coach Nelson.

Little did he know at the time that a lifeguarding job in Fort Lauderdale would lead him to becoming a household name in another sport -- swimming.

Coach Nelson's achievements include serving as Head Olympic, World Games and Pan American Games Coach. A former Collegiate All-American, three-time World Record holder and Olympian, he is the only person in the history of USA swimming who has been both an Olympic swimmer and an Olympic



The hallway that leads to the Fort Lauderdale Swim Team office is filled with trophies, plaques and photos of swimmers from Coach Nelson's past.

Jack Nelson and wife Sherrill take a moment to reminisce.

Head coach. Coach Nelson has the distinct honor to have been inducted into six Halls of Fame, including the University of Miami, Saint Thomas Aquinas, North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame and State of Florida.

Coach Nelson is the most successful high school swimming coach in the history of the sport with 30 State Team Championships. He has coached more than 460 All-Americans for high schools, including Pine Crest and Fort Lauderdale. He was named the National High School Coach of the Year in 1976.

Throughout his career, his wife of 31 years, Sherrill, has been his partner and champion. In 1999, the International Swimming Hall of Fame named Sherrill their Grand Dame for her outstanding contributions to USA Swimming. She has served as Head Manager of two Pan American Games, Manager of two World Championships, Head Manager for the National Junior Team and has made four trips to Australia with swimmers. In 1998, she was recognized by USA Swimming as the recipient of Women in Swimming award.

Coach Nelson, a former Fort Lauderdale Citizen of the Year, has been in the City for 54 years. He and his wife retired in grand style at the close of last year at the Broward County Convention Center. Friends, students and family gathered to pay tribute to the couple who have made an indelible in Fort Lauderdale's aquatic history.



Introductions...

Fort Lauderdale Education Advisory Board (EAB) Co-Chair, Lu Deaner, welcomed new School Board member, Maureen Dinnen, at the Nov. 18, 2004 meeting of the Education Advisory Board.

Ms. Dinnen, a former teacher and president of the Florida Education Association, lives in the Croissant Park neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale.

The purpose and duties of the Educational Advisory Board are to advise the City Commission on issues relating to educational matters which will impact the quality of education for City residents, or which will impact education facilities located within the City.

Sports, Leisure and Fun

Batter Up !

The Baltimore Orioles return to Spring Training in Fort Lauderdale in mid-February. Practices are open to the general public at no charge beginning February 21. Baltimore Orioles Spring Training tickets went on sale in January at Fort Lauderdale Stadium, located off I-95 and Commercial Boulevard. Home games begin March 4, when the Orioles take on the Florida Marlins in a 1:05 p.m. match-up. The Baltimore Orioles have made Fort Lauderdale their spring home since 1996. Special event days this spring include College Day on March 12, Little League Day on March 13, Kids Run the Bases Day on March 27 and Seniors Run the Bases Day on March 28. Senior Discount tickets are available for select weekday games. The purchase of a ticket entitles you to a discount coupon to the Heart Healthy Cafe at Holy Cross Hospital. For more information, please call the Orioles Spring Training Line at 954-776-1921.



Check Out Our Online Calendar

The City of Fort Lauderdale website offers readers easy and quick access to all types of City events with our online calendar. Log on to www.fortlauderdale.gov and check out the features, information and speed. With the click of a mouse, web surfers can obtain basic information about events taking place throughout the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Musical Instruments Wanted

Dust off your brass, keyboards, strings, drums or woodwinds and give children the opportunity to "play them again." The City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Department is seeking the donation of instruments in playable condition to organize a performance band for youth from 11 to 14 years of age. Please bring your donated instruments to the Holiday Park Social Center at 1150 G. Harold Martin Drive, Fort Lauderdale, Monday - Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, please call **954-828-4611**.

Bridge Club Activities

The Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club announced its schedule of games and activities for 2005. Daytime duplicate bridge master-point games are held Monday through Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. Evening games will be on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 7 p.m.

Non-life Master Duplicate games are held daily at 12:30 p.m. Social duplicate bridge games are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Looking for a game of Scrabble? Then head to the Fort Lauderdale Bridge Club on Thursdays at 6:15 p.m. All events are held at 700 N.E. 6th Terr. in Holiday Park.

Please call **954-761-1577** for more information.

Note: While we make every effort to include timely information, circumstances occasionally force changes to events listed. Please call the numbers listed prior to attending. Additionally, current events may cause delays in mail delivery of this publication. Should you receive this publication after an event has occurred please accept our apologies.



Get Involved In Water Matters Day

Learn about managing and protecting water resources at the second annual Water Matters Day.

The City of Fort Lauderdale partners with Broward County and other municipalities to sponsor this daylong event on Saturday, March 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Tree Tops Park, located at 3900 S.W. 100th Ave. in Davie. Admission to the park is \$1 per person, free to children 5 years old and under.

In addition to water-related presentations, Water Matters Day features workshops, special hands-on presentations, demonstrations and lots of free giveaways to encourage residents to create and maintain environmentally friendly yards.

During last year's Water Matters Day event, the City of Fort Lauderdale had the opportunity to educate attendees about the importance and benefits of proper stormwater management.

Participants who visit at least 10 of the educational exhibits will be eligible to receive free trees, plants, mulch, rain gauges and other items. There will be live entertainment and activities for children. For more information, please call **954-519-1270**.

Visit Fort Lauderdale Online at www.fortlauderdale.gov

Watch Your City Commission Live Online

Can't make it to the City Commission meeting? Not a problem. The City of Fort Lauderdale makes the City Commission's twice-monthly Conference and Regular Meetings available via www.fortlauderdale.gov. The meetings are broadcast live from the website on the days the City Commission meets, usually the first and third Tuesday of each month. Following the live broadcast, the meetings are archived and posted online where they can be accessed by citizens the morning following a meeting. Log on to www.fortlauderdale.gov, select the drop down menu reading "I WANT TO" and click on "Watch Comm. Video."

Watch City Government Access On Channel 78

Effective January 4, 2005, your City of Fort Lauderdale government access channel is on Channel 78. The move is part of an effort to improve the service Comcast provides and group similar channels together for customer s viewing ease. For example, news and information channels are grouped together, as are sports programming and family programming.

Time-Saving Web Tip

The City of Fort Lauderdale website offers a variety of online services that will keep you out of lines and off the phone. Use the web to save time and transact business on your own schedule.



Utility customers can view water accounts and pay water bills online by logging onto the City s website at www.fortlauderdale.gov, clicking on the drop down menu reading "I WANT TO..." and selecting "Pay my utility bill." Customers may pay water bills by using a VISA or Mastercard credit card. For information, please call 954-828-5150.



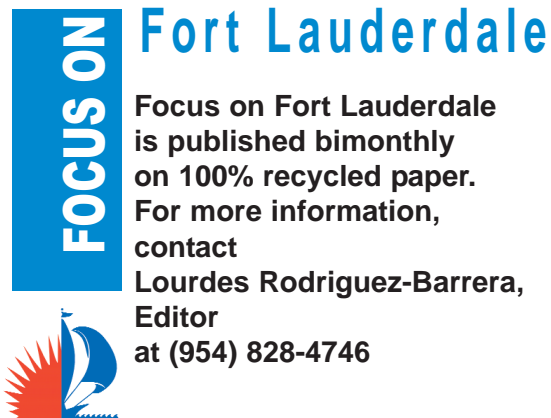
Schedule Your Next Event At War Memorial Auditorium

From trade shows to graduations, concerts to sporting events, antique fairs to conferences, the War Memorial Auditorium at Holiday Park can host it all.

Located at 800 NE 8th St. in Holiday Park, this 20,000 square foot facility stands as a commemoration of the World War II, Korean and Vietnam Veterans nationwide. On any given day, the War Memorial Auditorium serves as the perfect site for computer shows, bridal fairs and more. If you are looking for the perfect site for your event, search no further. This multi-purpose facility is owned and operated by the City of Fort Lauderdale and is available to you. For a schedule of events at the War Memorial Auditorium, log on to the City s website (www.fortlauderdale.gov); click on "QUICK LINKS" and select "Calendar of Events." For more information, call 954-828-5380.

If you would like this publication in an alternate format (large print, audio tape), call (954) 828-4746 or email webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov

City of Fort Lauderdale
Public Information Office
101 N.E. 3rd Ave., Suite 300
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301



PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit # 401
Fort Lauderdale, FL

Requested In-Home Delivery Dates: Feb 7-14, 2005